

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method for treating hyperlipidemia comprising administering an anti-microbial agent and a metal chelator to an individual in need thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the total level of cholesterol is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the level of apolipoprotein-B is reduced in the vascular system of the individual.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said anti-microbial agent is a macrolide antibiotic.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein said anti-microbial agent is a azalide antibiotic.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein said anti- microbial agent is azithromycin.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said metal chelator is a copper chelator.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said copper chelator is acetylsalicylic acid.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim according to claim 12 wherein anti-microbial agent and the metal chelator are administered simultaneously.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein anti-microbial agent and the metal chelator are administered sequentially.

Claims 23-26. (Canceled)

Claim 27. (Canceled)

Claim 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein the individual does not have an atherosclerotic condition.

30. (new) A method for treating hypercholesterolemia comprising;
administering an anti-microbial agent and a metal chelator to an individual in need thereof.

31. (new) A method for reducing apolipoprotein-B levels in the vascular system without reducing LDL-cholesterol levels comprising;
administering an anti-microbial agent and a metal chelator to an individual in need thereof.

32. (new) A method for reducing apolipoprotein-B levels in the vascular system without reducing LDL-cholesterol levels comprising;

administering an anti-microbial agent and a metal chelator to an individual in need thereof; and,

determining levels of apolipoprotein-B and LDL-cholesterol in the vascular system of said individual following said administration.